ABSTRACT

Existing digital cameras provide for the attachment of data such as messages, captions, or dates to images. However, the data is generally user controlled and may be fraudulently modified. Users may be interested in the tracking of images taken with a particular sensor, especially in security applications or manufacturing. Currently, no such identifier is currently available. The present invention introduces a method and apparatus for camera sensor identifier via an etched flaw. The method of the present invention first fabricates a solid-state image sensor. The image sensor comprises of a plurality of transistors. Then a subset of said transistors are modified to create an identifier. Modification may entail the use of a laser or electron beam to alter a subset of said transistors. The completed image sensor would be used in a image capturing device, such as a digital camera or video camera.